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March Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term March average:

Great Lakes Basin	133%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	127%
Lake Superior	131%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	151%
Lake Ontario	80%

LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 12, Number 4 April 8, 2004

All Lakes are into their 2004 Seasonal Rise

Precipitation combined with snowmelt runoff caused daily water levels to increase during March. Trends in daily water levels indicate that all of the Great Lakes are into their annual seasonal rise.

Daily water levels increased 3 cm on Lake Superior during March instead of falling slightly as they have on average during the 1918-2003 period of record. Levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron rose 11 cm during March-about twice the average increase recorded for these lakes. Water levels on Lake Erie rose 8 cm more than average increasing 22 cm. Daily levels on Lake Ontario experienced a slow but steady increase during March; however, levels rose 4 cm less than average increasing 11 cm.

Water levels are expected to continue to rise during April. The latest 6-month forecast continues to suggest that levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron will be higher this summer than they were last year.

Great Lakes Water Level Information

	March Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of April Level	
Lake	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	18 cm below	4 cm above	16 cm below	3 cm above
Michigan-Huron	44 cm below	17 cm above	42 cm below	17 cm above
St. Clair	13 cm below	24 cm above	7 cm below	26 cm above
Erie	11 cm below	17 cm above	6 cm below	20 cm above
Ontario	5 cm above	37 cm above	1 cm above	22 cm above

One Source for all Your Weather Needs

Whether you need to:

- learn about severe weather warnings
- plan an outdoor event
- monitor approaching storms
- head out onto the water
- search past weather events

Environment Canada's weather website: www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca has all the information you need.

Some Popular Pages

When you visit Environment Canada's weather website you will find links to several informative web pages including the following five:

Weather Warnings

From winter storms affecting a few provinces at a time, to tornadoes that can cause devastating damage to a very localized area, Canada experiences a wide variety of hazardous weather. To access the latest information on severe weather from coast to coast, click on the "Weather Warnings" link. This page automatically updates on a regular interval to provide you with the most current information.

5-day Weather

Environment Canada provides detailed 5-day forecasts for locations across the country. If you don't see your location on the map of Canada, simply click on the province or territory you are interested in and you will get access to a number of additional places.

RADAR Imagery

Environment Canada has a nationwide network of Doppler weather radars constantly scanning the skies for precipitation. The imagery can be viewed on a national scale, regional scale, or at an individual radar site. Radar data is available in near real-time and can be animated to see how the precipitation is moving and changing with time.

Marine Weather

Whether you are a recreational boater, fisher or ship's captain, knowledge of the current and forecast weather, wind and wave conditions on Canada's large bodies of water is important to you. From the "Marine Weather" link access the latest marine weather observations and forecasts for a variety of locations across the country.

Climate Data (Past Weather)

Historical weather data for many locations in the country is now freely accessible. You can check the long term average weather conditions for a given location (Climate Normals & Averages) or access the weather at a given site for a specified period of time (Climate Data Online).

Note: These figures are preliminary.

March Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term March average:

Lake Superior	91%
Lake Erie	100%
Lake Huron	92%
Lake Ontario	107%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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